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ABSTRACT

This document presents an overview of the Canadian national preservation program. It is divided into three sections: (1) Federal Initiatives, which explores activities at the National Library of Canada, the National Archives of Canada, the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM), and the Canadian Conservation Institute; (2) Cooperative, Decentralized Initiatives including preservation councils, advisory committees, task forces, and projects; and (3) Provincial and Local Initiatives, including ones at the University of Toronto Library, McMaster University, Ontario Public Libraries, and the National Library of Quebec. Teaching and training and digital libraries are also covered. (Contains 16 references.) (BEW)

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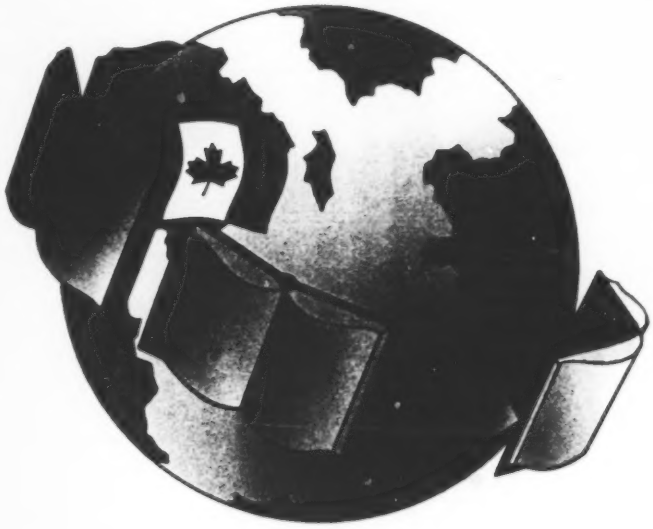
Preservation Activities in Canada:
A Unifying Theme in a Decentralised Country



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Preservation Activities in Canada:
A Unifying Theme in a Decentralised Country

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University of Toronto Library

February 1996

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Introduction

In October 1990, the Canadian government called together participants from libraries, archives and museums across Canada. The three-day event led to the emergence of an idea: In a country such as Canada, with far-flung provinces and two official languages, the preservation of Canada's cultural heritage serves as a unifying theme. The country's rich heritage has included books since the first settlements. Today, libraries throughout Canada house unique collections. Elsewhere, such nations as Great Britain, France, and the United States hold important collections of Canadiana, reflecting cultural ties and continuing migration patterns. The record of Canada's cultural heritage—of settlement and government, of the lives of the important as well as the ordinary who have made Canada what it is—is therefore dispersed nationally and worldwide, and the preservation of these resources is a major preservation challenge.

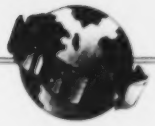
This report summarizes the history and status of preservation in Canada's libraries and archives. Several national institutions have taken the lead in the formulation of policy and the implementation of programs for preservation. Most of these institutions operate preservation programs of their own, but the focus here is on those initiatives that contribute to the entire country, and thereby, to international preservation. Preservation is defined herein as the all-encompassing umbrella of activities covering all components from conservation of original documents to reformatting of documents by microfilming and digitization.

Preservation–An Overview of the Canadian Approach

In many countries it is still too early to talk about a national approach to preservation since it is impossible to impose a national program on a nonexistent infrastructure. In Canada, however, the rudiments of a national preservation program have been present for several decades in a decentralised model. The program evolved in this way based on decisions made over time—an approach that works well in a country so geographically large, sparsely populated, and politically decentralised.

This decentralization has put a premium on building consensus rather than imposing solutions on constituent provinces by a central body or bodies. In such a context, an effective national strategy for preservation depends on strong regional initiatives. In turn, even though preservation has been regionally motivated, there is a sense of common purpose and coordination at a national level. This is particularly fortuitous because worldwide regional and cooperative efforts have become critical at a time of reduced funding from centralized sources. Canada's model for preservation may prove ideally suited to other programs under development.

To provide context, this report groups Canada's preservation activities under the headings of Federal Initiatives, Decentralised Cooperative Initiatives, and Provincial Initiatives. However, in practice and by design, these sometimes overlapping activities are held together loosely by a few key components, such as their participants, resources, areas of interest, or goals. The topics of increasing importance—the emerging digital library and teaching/training—are considered separately.



Federal Initiatives

Federal initiatives are centred mainly in Ottawa. The following organizations have a national mandate.

National Library of Canada

Preservation Collection and Mass Deacidification

A central mandate of the National Library of Canada (NLC) is to collect and preserve Canadian publications in all formats, including government documents and music. Canadiana is defined as anything about Canada, published in Canada, or published anywhere in the world by a Canadian. As of 1953, the law has required that publishers deposit in the NLC two copies of each work produced in the country. Since 1988, one copy has been designated for the preservation collection and must be kept exactly as produced. If feasible, this preservation copy is treated in the library's mass deacidification stream.

For twenty years the NLC has been deacidifying its collection using the Wei T'o process, which can handle most incoming materials. The National Archives of Canada operates the Wei T'o plant exclusively to treat the NLC collections. Much of the NLC's existing preservation collection has been treated. As a matter of practice, since the early 1980s, all new acquisitions have been routinely treated if technically possible, unless the item is printed on alkaline paper. The NLC continues to investigate emerging mass deacidification technologies, but it should be noted that this is the only mass deacidification treatment facility anywhere in the world that has been operating on a continuous basis for more than twenty years.

Permanent Paper

The NLC's involvement in promoting the use of permanent paper has included a role in lobbying Canadian publishers. When the lobbying effort started in the late 1980s, the library community realised that promoting the change to alkaline paper would be a challenge. Within a short time, however, it became economically advantageous for paper makers to retool their mills to produce alkaline paper. As a result of this economic factor and the campaign waged by NLC in conjunction with other libraries and concerned groups, in January 1992 the Federal Government announced that all government documents to be retained for information or historical purposes would be printed on alkaline paper. The NLC has worked with government departments and agencies to implement this regulation where possible and to educate users and producers nationwide on the use of alkaline paper.

Paper Deterioration—the Lignin Factor

The NLC has been very active in research regarding lignin content and the chemical deterioration of paper. When the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on Printing and Writing Paper, in conjunction with the Canadian Advisory Committee for ISO Technical Committee 46, reviewed the proposed standard ISO DIS 9706 on Paper Permanency, the result was controversy. Specifically, the Canadian pulp and paper industry's concern focused on the scientific justification for the direction taken in the ISO specifications regarding lignin content. The industry claimed that passing this standard would exclude papers containing mechanical and bleached chemithermomechanical (BCTM) pulps from being considered permanent, and Canadian paper mills had invested very heavily in these new BCTM pulp-making methods.

Much debate among the user groups (consisting mainly of library and archive members on the one hand and the pulp and paper industry on the other) resulted in an agreement that Canada should return a neutral vote on the proposed standard. This led to the formation of a joint research project made up of members of the user community and the industry. The NLC has played a leading role with the National Archives, Paprican (the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada), and the Department of Canadian Heritage in drawing up proposals with the industry for a project to research the paper permanency standard; this project was to be undertaken by the Canadian Conservation Institute. On the international level, the NLC has provided input to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) for a research project on paper permanence. The ASTM project is of much greater scope than the Canadian Conservation Institute's and, in addition to the lignin question, will look at several other factors in paper disintegration.

Canadian Theses Service

In 1965 the NLC established the Canadian Theses Service to preserve and make accessible Canadian doctoral and masters theses. Set up as a decentralised effort in 1965, there were four participants; thirty years later, the number has grown to approximately fifty colleges and universities. An estimated 145,000 doctoral and masters theses have been filmed at the rate of 9,000 to 10,000 items per year.

From the beginning the NLC has provided bibliographic access to these theses through *Canadiana* and *Canadian Theses (Microfiche)*. Since 1991 *Dissertation Abstracts International* and *Masters Abstracts International* have also listed theses. These publications can be purchased through the NLC's Canadian agent, Micromedia, or through University Microfilms International. Microfiche copies can be borrowed on interlibrary loan through the NLC. It is truly a collaborative effort, with the NLC as overall manager, while the participating universities and colleges share costs and work with the NLC to make sure that filming is done according to technical specifications and that documents adhere to copyright requirements. The participating universities and colleges receive a microfiche copy of each thesis they submit. Plans are underway to monitor new electronic technology to guarantee the continuing preservation of and access to Canadian theses.

Electronic Documents

In Canada, as elsewhere, there is growing interest in developing digital technology. The NLC recently completed its Electronic Publications Pilot Project, initiated to consider major issues in processing and providing access to online publications. The aim is for acquisitions, preservation, cataloguing, storage, repository, copyright issues, access, and use all to be handled electronically, for as low a cost as possible. The NLC has concluded that "it is feasible for a National library to build a collection of electronic networked publications. . . . In the distributed Internet world, many experts warn against centralised solutions. But if the solution . . . is a decentralised one, the same concerns which were discussed for more traditional types of materials will surface. Among the key issues will be the acceptance of responsibilities and a sustained commitment from the various partners."[1]

The NLC is also digitizing some of its own unparalleled collection of Canadiana. The Confederation Project, for example, is an electronic resource that brings into focus the influence of the American Civil War on the achievement of Canadian Confederation. Another collection highlights the achievements of twenty-one women from Canada's past. This material is available on the World Wide Web through the Library's home page: http://www.nlc-bnc/ca.

Heritage Officer

The NLC recently appointed a Heritage Officer. The duties of this position include the coordination of national programs and projects designed to promote the comprehensive and cost-effective acquisition, organization, preservation, and awareness of published Canadiana and collections in Canadian libraries. The officer's job also includes the policy development,

advice, and actions required to secure a coordinated, strategic plan to organize, preserve, and make accessible all collections, including foreign, held in Canadian libraries.

National Archives of Canada

A central part of the National Archives of Canada's mandate is to "conserve private and public records of national significance and facilitate access thereto, to be the permanent repository of records of government institutions and of ministerial records."[2] The Archives' collections comprise not only paper records but also oil paintings, watercolours, all forms of prints and drawings, cartographic and architectural drawings, photographs, philately, globes, electronic and audiovisual materials, and other objects of national and historical significance. The Archives has fifty-four conservation-related full-time employees; three conservation laboratories; three laboratories for video, sound, and movies; and microfilming and photographic services. In addition to doing conservation treatments on their own collections, the Archives does conservation, microfilming, photography, moving image and sound treatment and, as previously indicated, mass deacidification for the NLC. The NLC chooses the items and bases its work on an annual treatment plan. Because the two organizations report to the same Federal Government minister, this is a workable arrangement from an administrative point of view.

The Archives has had a well-developed conservation policy and implementation framework in place since 1987. It has identified the need to increase the focus on long-term preservation through preservation management and shift resources from the treatment of individual items to the preservation of collections. Increasingly, the Archives is looking at techniques such as environmental control and the minimum conservation work necessary to stabilize as large a volume of material as possible, rather than the more labour-intensive work devoted to a smaller number of documents. To minimize handling, the Archives produces copies for heavily used documents. This trend toward the stabilization of a greater volume of materials will continue with the move of the Archives' Conservation Department to new climate-controlled facilities by the end of 1997.

Other priorities of the Archives include investigation of the physical custody of electronic records, investigation of the use of digital technologies for the copying of textual records, and the most appropriate format to be used for the long-term preservation of electronic records, as well as research with the National Research Council on HFC solvents for mass deacidification.

Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM)

The Canadian Institute for Historical Microproductions (CIHM), founded in 1978, began as an access project, although most Canadian libraries now think of CIHM as a preservation project. In effect, it has achieved both goals. CIHM was set up as a result of two reports in the 1970s: *To Know Ourselves, the Report of the Commission on Canadian Studies*, by Professor T.H.B. Symons and the *Report of the Consultative Group on University Research Libraries*. "The Symons report noted the need for stronger collections of Canadian material as well as the need to return to Canada, in some form, printed Canadiana held by foreign libraries and archives. A library consultative group issued a report in 1977, noting that not only was it difficult to obtain access to Canadiana, but books were rapidly deteriorating, and [they] recommended immediate measures be taken to deal with the problem."[3]

The objectives of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions are:

- To improve access to printed Canadiana
- To make rare and scarce Canadiana more widely available
- To bring together fragmented collections of Canadiana
- To ensure the preservation of Canadiana in Canada and elsewhere.[4]

A board composed of scholars, chief librarians, and business representatives oversees the Institute. Funding comes from various sources, with the Canada Council originally providing $2 million. Subscriptions for the *Early Canadiana* microfiche collection account for about thirty to fifty percent of CIHM revenues, and other sales for an additional twenty to thirty percent. The NLC also has provided funding, along with considerable support services and work space in the NLC building.

In many respects, the Institute serves as an example of a successful cooperative microfilming project. Since 1978, CIHM has completed filming Canadian monographs from 1559-1900 and serials from the same period; in its current phase it will film post-1900 monographs (1900-1920). Since its inception, the Institute has filmed almost 70,000 monographs and 60,000 serial issues. Evidence of the cooperative nature of the Canadian preservation program at the national level appears in the geographic range of filmed materials identified nationwide by seven part-time regional researchers. All titles proposed for filming are researched for copyright status and filming permission. Materials are borrowed from the holding libraries and then filmed by a vendor in Toronto.

A valuable byproduct has been the identification and cataloguing of Canadiana. The resulting fiche are fully catalogued and mounted on the NLC database. CANMARC tapes of the monographs and annuals are produced and mounted on the ISM and OCLC databases. CIHM seeks to raise awareness of its filming project both within and outside of Canada and to produce subject collection subsets that might appeal to libraries not wanting to subscribe to the complete collection. Libraries subscribing to the microfiche sets receive bibliographic records on tape. COM and print catalogs are available, and there is a World Wide Web home page connected to the complete database at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cihm/home.html.

As Pam Bjornson, executive director, observes, CIHM is a creature of the subscribing libraries and is, therefore, what those libraries want it to be. At present CIHM is investigating ways it should change with the emergence of digital technologies. It has set up a technical advisory committee to examine how CIHM might use new technology and to initiate a pilot project. The agency has no immediate plans to depart from the microfiche format but is keeping open the option of converting and/or moving to digital technology within the broader twofold mandate of preservation and of access to Canadiana.

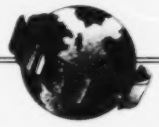
Canadian Conservation Institute

Established twenty years ago, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) works with Canadian museums "to promote the proper care and preservation of Canada's moveable cultural heritage, and to advance the practice, science, and technology of conservation."[5] The Ottawa facility, staffed by 80 to 100 personnel, is primarily a research organization. CCI's Paper Group of Conservation Research Services, however, also does some work for libraries and archives. One of the unusual features of the organization is the existence of both research and conservation operations together in one building. This arrangement helps to guarantee that research has immediate and tangible practical application.

The Paper Group has conducted research on bleaching, pressure sensitive tapes, enzyme use, washing, aqueous deacidification, and the effects of fumigants on cellulosic materials. A major research study conducted over the last three to four years compared mass deacidification treatments undertaken for the Metropolitan Toronto Chairman's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage and the NLC. The Paper Group also is working on a permanent paper project with Paprican, vendors, libraries, and other organizations in the United States, as well as the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) subcommittee working on a Canadian standard for permanent paper and the lignin question. The CCI also has bid on the accelerated ageing testing portion of the ASTM permanent paper research project.

The CCI reviews its priorities and periodically holds meetings in the community, as did its Paper Group in the spring of 1994. During this focus group session, CCI staff met with staff from art galleries, archives, and libraries in the Toronto area to discuss current and possible future research projects. After detailed discussion, the group drew up a list of priorities and projects for the next three years. This document then circulated among participants for comments and further suggestions. In this way, CCI keeps in close touch with key clients and makes sure that research projects are relevant and reflect needs in the field.

In other endeavors, CCI produces its own research publications and publishes in outside journals. Additionally, CCI presents papers regularly at international conferences and responds to requests for consultations from other countries. The CCI has contributed to preservation practices around the world through dissemination of its research results.



Cooperative, Decentralised Initiatives

The cooperative decentralised efforts described below are occasionally conducted under the auspices of one or more of the major participants in the field.

Canadian Council of Archives

A noted cooperative effort has been spearheaded by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA), which was created in 1985 and represents archival resources across Canada. Funded by the Federal Government, it operates through twelve provincial and territorial councils. Canadian archives, in general, have been much more successful than libraries in obtaining government funding because of the existence of this central body, which can coordinate efforts and help to advance funding applications.

The year 1989 saw the production of the *National Strategic Conservation Plan*, and the CCA instituted a series of cost-shared preservation initiatives in archives across Canada with federal funding of $3.5 million: "The Committee's activities, based on the priorities identified through nation-wide consultations undertaken in the course of the strategic planning process, currrently include the administration of the funding program, advocacy, communication, training issues, and applied conservation research."[6] Between 1991 and 1994, the Federal Government has funded 234 projects worth $1.8 million through this program. In March 1994, the preservation committee of the CCA published *The Preservation Strategy for Archives in Canada*. This report outlines a five-year-plan for the period 1994-99, including a plan for each province and territory. Currently, the committee is focusing on implementing the planning strategy by working with provincial and territorial councils.

To give practical help to archivists, the CCA preservation committee is developing as a forthcoming publication a preservation assessment tool. Otherwise, the CCA has contributed to research publications well-regarded in the field and by the international community. The CCA has many other planned areas of consideration: advice on archival enclosures, standards for archival quality storage of materials, research on the effects of washing and deacidification of paper, and in partnership with the Image Permanence Institute in Rochester, NY, a project on acetate film deterioration and effects of alkali on the long-term stability of paper fibres containing lignin.

Decentralised Program for Canadian Newspapers

Early on the NLC decided that it would not collect newspapers comprehensively, with the result that the provinces have held major newspaper collections. In 1980, a NLC survey regarding newspapers established which collection and preservation practices were in place provincially. The NLC then provided seed money to relevant groups in each province and territory to identify the newspaper holdings and develop preservation programs.

Throughout the 1980s, the provinces microfilmed their holdings, with the NLC buying a copy of each title filmed as funds permitted. At the same time the NLC attempted to acquire and maintain a representative collection of original newspapers, student newspapers, and newspapers produced by special interest groups. The NLC has put considerable effort into providing bibliographic and location information on Canadian newspapers through its union catalog. Thus, there is a good repository of newspapers at the NLC, and Canada's printed newspaper heritage has been preserved and made accessible. For the NLC to have attempted to film all of these newspapers itself would have been an impossibly large task.

Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project

A more recent cooperative program is the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project. In 1990, five Canadian university libraries—University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Toronto, McGill University, and Université Laval—in conjunction with the NLC approached The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York. They requested funding to set up an infrastructure for a cooperative microfilming program, since the brittle book problem was as grave in Canada as it is in the United States. The Foundation granted $875,000 in U.S. currency (equal to $1.2 million Canadian) for the projects described below.

The participating libraries were required to adhere to the most stringent standards for preservation microfilming. To this end a technical subcommittee drew up a microfilming manual, *Guidelines for Preservation Microfilming in Canadian Libraries*. Thereafter, the five participating university libraries entered into a variety of agreements, primarily with local vendors to microfilm in order to test the procedures. In total, three generations of 8,998 volumes of 35mm microfilm, or 3,040 titles, were produced to preservation standards. After working with the project, three vendors Canada-wide were able to reach acceptable standards for preservation microfilming.

Bibliographic records for each title filmed were submitted to the NLC and mounted on the NLC database. Since an important part of the project was to report items filmed to the international community, the NLC came to an agreement with the Research Libraries Group that these records would be sent for mounting on the RLIN database. The NLC established a Canadian Register of Microfilm Masters, with each of the filming libraries reporting holdings filmed. This register is available to anyone searching the NLC database. In addition, because none of the participants had access to archival storage for the completed microfilm, the NLC agreed to provide storage space for the first generation masters in the National Archives vault used by the NLC.

To disseminate the expertise in preservation microfilming developed by the participants throughout the country, one-day training sessions were held in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. These workshops, attended by staff from local libraries, archives, and local vendors, succeeded in either training participants to reach acceptable standards for preservation microfilm or to recognise when a purchased microfilm meets standards.

Advisory Committee on a Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries

Established in 1991 under the leadership of the NLC with funding from the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project, the Advisory Committee was formed to "discuss and make

recommendations on policy issues and strategy options for a national program of preservation."[7] A consultative approach was used to develop *A National Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries*, a comprehensive report that covers the issues inherent in a national strategy, from collection and retention policies to research and development. "The report examines the current Canadian scene, identifies areas of concern and points to solutions, with recommendations, for a coordinated national effort to ensure the continued existence of the holdings of Canada's libraries for both present and future generations. . . . [This] report, . . . if adopted . . . should lay a firm base from which to operate and develop the application of skills and resources so necessary to secure the safety of Canada's published heritage."[8] The consultant hired to work with this committee, John McIntyre of the National Library of Scotland, points out that he uncovered a great deal of knowledge and awareness of preservation issues and adds that this should stand the preservation effort in Canada in good stead, with the cautionary note that sufficient funding needs to be made available.

Task Force on Preservation and Enhanced Use of Canada's Audio-Visual Heritage

While paper materials are deteriorating quickly, audiovisual materials are perhaps in an even more critical stage of decay. In 1994, the Task Force on the Preservation and Enhanced Use of Canada's Audio-Visual Heritage was organized and led by the National Archives of Canada. The task force had a one-year-mandate to study the issues surrounding the preservation of audiovisual material and to develop a preservation strategy. Membership was drawn from archives, libraries, museums, producers, broadcasters, distributors, and users from both public and private sectors.

As part of its investigations and deliberations, open meetings were held at various sites across Canada to give local participants a forum in which to discuss problems and solutions. These forums attracted representatives from the user, producer, and vendor communities. The result of the Task Force's deliberations was the report *Fading Away: Strategic Options to Ensure the Protection of and Access to Our Audio-Visual Memory*, which was sent to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and made available across Canada.

The report's central premise is that responsibility for the preservation of these media must be handled by a consortium of public institutions and the audiovisual industry. Government bodies and agencies would be just one of the participants among many. All members would contribute to the financing of the proposed preservation project. The amount of money required includes: "$2 million, cost shared for non federal stakeholders . . . combined with $2 million for federal agencies per year over 10 years . . . a preservation fund generating a minimum of $2 million annually . . . $1 million over three years to set up a specialised service centre . . . and $1.5 million over 5 years to support training and exchange."[9] Several regional storage facilities are recommended for use by those institutions without access to proper storage conditions.

During its investigation, the task force noted that there was audiovisual preservation expertise in many places but little communication. The proposed consortium of stakeholders would facilitate the exchange of knowledge and prevent duplication of effort. The report is currently with the Minister and further developments are expected in 1996.

Conférence des Recteurs et des Principaux des Universités du Québec (CREPUQ)

CREPUQ is an association of Quebec universities involved in many cooperative activities. Its subcommittee on libraries task force has a work group that pursues preservation of materials in university libraries and archives in Quebec. This task force coordinates advice and access to experts and research expertise and publishes tools for library preservation.

Council of Federal Libraries

The Council of Federal Libraries Library Preservation Committee was established in 1979 to keep the Federal Government library community informed on preservation issues in libraries and to promote library preservation in this community. This committee surveys the community to name current issues and problematic matters; it then delves into these issues on behalf of the member libraries. As a result, workshops have been offered to constituent libraries on matters such as alkaline paper advocacy, disaster planning, and electronic media.

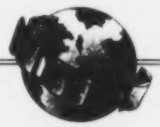
Metropolitan Toronto Chairman's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage

In 1990, a regional cooperative, the Chairman's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage, was formed in Toronto. It consisted of a loose consortium of public and university libraries, archives, and other specialised libraries, under the sponsorship of the Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto. In recognition of the acid paper crisis, the committee attempted to develop strategies to control and decrease the loss of books and other paper-based collections.

The committee's first step was to examine the various mass deacidification systems available, with a view to building a facility in Toronto for the use of local institutions. A Toronto consulting firm, Lord Cultural Resources Planning & Management Inc, was hired to carry out a feasibility study for such a facility. The timeline for this study was brief—four months—and the consultants had only time and money to do a comprehensive literature search and to draw up a business plan.

The Chairman's committee concluded that it should commission a major scientific study to be carried out by the Canadian Conservation Institute since there were no reliable objective comparative studies of relevant technologies available. Funded by Canadian libraries, as well as some U.S. support, the study, *Evaluation and Comparison of Commercial Mass Deacidification Processes*, was done by the Institute's Conservation Processes Research Division under the direction of Helen Burgess.

From this, the Chairman's committee agreed that no system was at a sufficient stage of development or reliability to be definitively recommended. The committee, while continuing to monitor mass deacidification efforts, has now broadened its scope and is trying to raise money for cooperative digitization projects to be carried out among the Toronto participants.



Provincial and Local Initiatives

Local initiatives are carried out on the provincial level in the university and at public libraries and archives in each province and territory. Many of such organizations have noteworthy preservation programs, but as noted earlier, the scope of this report is restricted to cooperative efforts contributing to the international effort. It is worthwhile to note that there are significant cultural heritage collections in each province, again reflecting the decentralised nature of the country.

British Columbia

The University of British Columbia Library has among its holdings the James G. Swan Papers, correspondence of a nineteenth-century ethnographer and civil servant in Washington

Territory; these papers, preserved by microfilming, are primarily of interest to students of native cultures in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest. Vancouver's Japanese Canadian newspapers *Nikkan Minshu* and *Kanada Shinbun* and the British Columbia Sessional Papers from 1871 to 1982 have also been microfilmed. The Preservation Microfilming Special Projects Program, as it is called, is a cost-recovery program that is being expanded to include other publications of interest.

In the spring of 1993 the British Columbia Archives and Records Service (BCARS) initiated a pilot project with the Laboratory for Extended Media, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Victoria, to investigate the digital conversion of the BCARS visual records collections. The goal is to improve access to these collections and to limit wear and tear on the originals. Over 3,500 images have been scanned and converted onto the system. With improved access to the files, user satisfaction is high. BCARS plans to continue adding digital images to its bank. It is also working to increase the conversion of library reference cards and descriptive information related to BCARS holdings.

Alberta

Preservation microfilming at the University of Alberta Library has focused on Alberta imprints and Native and Northern serials. With funding from the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project, Alberta has filmed nearly 100 serial backfiles. Another major preservation initiative has been the conversion of a local warehouse into a high-density, climate-controlled book and archival depository, capable of holding 3.2 million volumes. This is being promoted among members of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries as a regional resource-sharing centre.

Manitoba

In Manitoba, the Public Archives of Manitoba, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and Winnipeg Art Gallery have developed strong preservation goals for themselves and have participated actively in a strong provincial preservation network. The Manitoba Library Consortium Preservation Committee has sponsored preservation presentations and printed brochures on the care and handling of library materials. The Manitoba Heritage Conservation Service provides preservation service for any publicly owned collection of heritage materials, including consulting, conservation workshops and internships, conservation treatment, loans of equipment, coordination of bulk supplies ordering, and emergency assistance.

Ontario

In Ontario, Canada's largest province in terms of population, generous collections exist in many different libraries and library systems. The University of Toronto Library, with a collection of twelve million items, is one of the largest research libraries in North America. Important collections also exist at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, the Archives of Ontario, and many of the other university and public libraries in the province. The Reference Library, Archives, and University Library, in particular, have mature preservation programs, employing methods such as conservation of artifacts, reprography, disaster-planning, and outreach to the library and archive community. Staff from these organizations are involved in policy making and planning at regional, national, and international levels. They also operate in an advisory capacity on conservation treatments and disaster recovery to other organizations in the province.

University of Toronto Library

At the University of Toronto, the University Library and the University of Toronto Bookstore and Information Systems Management Corp, Library Information Services Division (formerly UTLAS International) have formed a partnership to supply the Japanese market with

books in the library's collection but out of print in Japan. Customers in Japan search in the University of Toronto's online catalog and send orders to the Library Information Services Division. The University of Toronto bookstore then checks the copyright status of the requests and obtains copyright permission when necessary. The books are scanned in the library using Xerox XDOD scanning equipment, and the digitized books are printed by the University of Toronto Press, bound, and shipped to Japan. In this way, the university obtains digitized copies of library materials that are at present stored on magneto optical disks. The long-term plan is to add these files to the digital library and to make these files available electronically.

McMaster University

Since 1980, the conservation laboratory of McMaster University Library has run a cooperative conservation service for ten Ontario libraries that do not have their own conservation facilities. The libraries in the consortium send books and paper artifacts to McMaster for treatment and repair. There is a high demand for this program among libraries in the province. This type of approach is well-suited to granting smaller institutions the access to techniques and technologies that are beyond their reach in terms of cost or experience. In this way, small but valuable collections receive the same attention as larger collections.

Ontario Public Libraries

In 1990 the Ontario Library Association and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications sponsored the Ontario Public Library Strategic Plan, *One Place to Look*. Objective nine of the plan was "To develop a programme to preserve printed and electronic information stored in the libraries of Ontario." Action steps to be taken under this are:

- That the government of Ontario establish a body to develop a province-wide reservation policy and strategy.
- That the body established to develop the policy consist of library and archival interests, and representatives from the public and private sector.
- That the Government of Ontario establish a preservation office with appropriate professional staff to administer the policy and to support the required activities.

This strategic plan is currently under consideration by various government agencies in Ontario.

Quebec

Large collections of Quebec's cultural heritage exist at the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, Université Laval, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, McGill University, and the Séminaire de Québec, among others. Quebec has a significant portion of the Francophone resources in the country, although there are also major Anglophone holdings in the province.

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

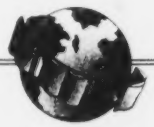
The government of Quebec has agreed that the Bibliothèque nationale acquire, restore, and equip a conservation building for $15 million, which would include space for the Montreal Centre of the National Archives of Quebec. Planning is underway to select a mass deacidification unit with the intention of deacidifying 32,000 books a year. In addition to deacidifying the Bibliothèque's own collection, the service will be offered for a fee to other libraries in Quebec.

Atlantic Provinces of Canada

In the Atlantic provinces, especially in Nova Scotia, there has long been a strong interest in preservation and conservation. This has been kept alive through individuals working in libraries as conservators or bookbinders and more formally through the Atlantic Provinces

Library Association. The main participants have been Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dalhousie University Library (Nova Scotia), the Atlantic Theological Seminary (Nova Scotia), the University of New Brunswick, and the Saint John Free Public Library, along with provincial archives.

Over the last two decades local experts and outside guest speakers have given many training courses and workshops. In New Brunswick a Conservation Cooperative has operated for a number of years, providing treatment to collections with an emphasis on library materials. A Provincial Conservation Program provides consultations, assistance, and preservation planning to archives, museums, and libraries. The Paper Heritage Group of Newfoundland is a cooperative venture established to provide conservation and preservation microfilming services to founding members and limited services to other public institutions and organizations.



Teaching and Training

Teaching and training are extremely important components of the preservation picture in any country and Canada is no exception. Unfortunately, it is in this area that Canada is most lacking in programs and resources. This means Canadians often have to travel abroad to find the necessary training and education, since formal courses are provided at very few Canadian institutions.

For the last three years the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, has offered an MLS credit course, "Preservation of Recorded Information." Geared to preservation administrators, the course content covers topics such as ethics of conservation, papermaking, microfilming, digitizing of library materials, and organizational structures for preservation. The Faculty of Information Studies also has offered one-day-long continuing education workshops on topics such as disaster planning, planning for preservation, and digitization of library materials.

Two formal conservation training courses in Canada are given at Queen's University and Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology. The Master of Arts Program at Queen's University offers courses on the history, technology, and conservation of paper objects. There are also courses on paper objects conservation practice. Taken together, these courses generally are considered to give excellent training in paper conservation methods. At Sir Sandford Fleming College there is a diploma program in Art Conservation Techniques, a combination of theory and practice aimed at preservation practitioners. There are also courses in preservation at McGill and the University of British Columbia Library Schools and library technician programs at Concordia University and Seneca College.

Another traditional method of training in the field has been the apprenticeship model. The National Archives has had interns, as has the Canadian Conservation Institute and the National Library of Canada. In Toronto, the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library Preservation Services Department, the Archives of Ontario Conservation and Reproduction Unit, and the University of Toronto Department of Preservation Services, to name some, have conducted training sessions for interested people. In Montreal, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, which has an excellent and respected conservation laboratory, has taken on interns from time to time. This method of training may be as popular as it is in Canada because of the lack of more formal training courses. It is also likely that its popularity is due to the large influx into Canada of British and European conservators in the 1960s who favoured this apprenticeship or internship method.

Workshops and courses have been offered in all areas and regions of Canada, from the Atlantic provinces to British Columbia; this includes, for example, the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, which hosts workshops and training sessions every year on topics as diverse as gold tooling and preservation enclosures. These sessions are always led by people of excellence in the field. The International Institute for Conservation, Canadian Group, holds conferences and workshops and provides outreach to the community. The Canadian Library Association and Ontario Library Association have put on preservation workshops and lectures at their conferences.

A few years ago the media paid a great deal of attention to the brittle book problem. Many Canadian newspapers devoted space to brittle books and expounded on solutions. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation produced "Turning to Dust," an hour-long program in the *Nature of Things* series hosted by scientist David Suzuki. This documentary discussed all aspects of the preservation problem in Canada, in particular, but also in North America.

Digital Library

In Canada, as elsewhere, the idea of the digital library is emerging. The preservation of this electronic information is even more problematic than the preservation of either paper or audiovisual materials since much less is known about the long-term preservation and access for these formats.

The National Archives is responsible for the preservation of unpublished records and the National Library of Canada for published records. Electronic data preservation also is being carried out at universities in Canada. The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, University of Western Ontario, York University, Queen's University, and the University of Toronto all have data libraries whose job it is to track down electronic files on campus and document and preserve them.

In spite of these efforts, it is probably safe to say that much electronic information has been lost. Canada's libraries understand that they must mount a major effort, much like that relating to audiovisual materials. The need for this will become apparent as more libraries and archives mount digitizing operations. There are already a number of such digitizing initiatives at the University of Toronto Library, University of Victoria, National Library of Canada, and Memorial University. There is also widespread agreement that before too much information in electronic format is produced, lost, or duplicated, a central register of electronic files, much like the Canadian Register of Microform Masters, must be produced, and standards must be set up for the preservation and migration of such files. This register will become increasingly important as the digital or electronic library continues to expand in Canada, along with linkages to the international electronic library.

Future Directions

There is broad consensus on the need to build on *A National Strategy* due to a range of factors such as the evolving digital library, an increasing sense of urgency regarding paper deterioration, and user demand for electronic access. To this end the National Library of Canada organized a National Meeting on Preservation in Ottawa in November 1994. Attended by participants from libraries and archives across Canada, the meeting brought together people from key organizations to discuss what has been done and to tie together regional efforts to preserve Canada's valuable collections within a national framework.

Indeed, the symposium served to illustrate how the decentralised model has worked in Canada. The first day was spent reporting on individual activities in the various organizations, as well as cooperative activities. Descriptions of the current situation were followed by a discussion of the next steps to be taken, using the framework of the *A National Strategy* as a starting point. Participants developed priorities, worked out strategies, and recommended actions. One of the top priorities was to study further the need for a Canadian national forum for coordination of preservation activities. There continues to be considerable discussion between the National Library of Canada and the library community about what form this might take and how to achieve this goal. Once consensus is reached, it is probable that a structure will be developed to highlight issues and raise funding.

In *A National Strategy*, Canada has a well-thought-out plan to lead preservation efforts into the next century. What remains to be put into place are two pieces, not necessarily mutually exclusive: a coordinating or overseeing initiative and a powerful fundraising effort. It is with these two questions that Canadian libraries and archives are engaged at present. Canada knows what is to be done and how it can be done. Who will take the initiative and who will provide the financial support are the crucial questions that must be answered if Canada's preservation effort is to move from being a fortuitously decentralised effort to being a truly mature national program to preserve Canada's heritage into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Endnotes

[1] *Electronic Publications at the National Library of Canada* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1995).

[2] *National Archives of Canada Act*, Statutes of Canada, 1987 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1988), Chapter 1.

[3] Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, *Annual Report 1993-94* (Ottawa: CIHM, 1994).

[4] Ibid.

[5] Canadian Conservation Institute, *Annual Report 1993-94* (Ottawa: CCI, 1993-94).

[6] Canadian Council of Archives, *Information Bulletin* (Ottawa: CCA, 1995).

[7] Advisory Committee on a Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries, *A National Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1994). Hereafter referred to as *A National Strategy*.

[8] Ibid.

[9] *Fading Away: Strategic Options to Ensure the Protection of and Access to Our Audio-Visual Memory* (Canada: National Archives of Canada, 1995).

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